

1 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Science and
Technology

SUBJECT : JIIRG Recommendations

1. The JIIRG recommendations distributed to USIB members on 17 January show some modification from the final draft prepared in July 1966: recommendations remain, however, which are potentially crippling to the S&T Directorate and the Agency.

25X1 2. The fourth recommendation deals with [redacted] As originally drafted, the recommendation called for the approval of the recommendations of the Director, NRO. These recommendations preclude the initiative now exercised by OSA in selecting the facility to be used for processing film obtained by OSA missions. This was a matter of extreme concern to Wheelon, and it resulted in a very bloody session with Ray Cline. This action proposed by D/NRO had been approved by USIB, and on Wheelon's recommendation the Director proceeded to dodge by simply announcing that he was laying it aside because another study (the JIIRG) would shortly be looking into this area and would produce data which would bear on this proposal. As now written this fourth recommendation is relatively weak in that the Sec. Def. and DCI in approving the JIIRG recommendations "request the USIB finalize its consideration of this subject at an early date." This does not make sense because the USIB has already done this, and the Director is really the guy who is on the hook. The fourth recommendation goes further, however, and places COMEX into the processing business. Ultimately, the quality of film processing, etc., could seriously deteriorate since the obvious NRO/DOD objective is to make GI processing work. The real winder behind this is [redacted] on the NRO staff who is recommended as the Chief of the NRO Committee which would operate [redacted] You will note, for example, that NRO recently directed [redacted] to process and produce 1038-2 completely. I recommend that the Director find the JIIRG Report to have little bearing on [redacted] recommendation and not approve it, and that the Agency strongly resist direct COMEX control or NRO control of processing.

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NRO review(s)
completed.

3. Recommendation 7 pertains to new NPIC construction. This is another football: although not part of the JIIRG charter, the Group was asked to make a recommendation. It refused to do so, but instead recommends re-evaluation of this 3-year old program by COMEX. The recommendation to approve and accelerate this construction "as may be required" makes very little sense at all in view of the fact that it has been a bounding ball for nearly a year, and that the principal recommendation is to restudy (one more time). No recommendation.

4. Recommendation 11 did not appear in the draft on which we commented in July. It requires COINS to give priority support to COMEX. Again, considering that NSA, DIA, NPIC, and Headquarters groups have been wrestling with this now for several years, a recommendation that this bucket of worms give priority to a yet to be established group just doesn't make much sense and could complicate life for OCS and COMMO as well as other groups. Similar to the processing area, I recommend that COMEX, if formed, be required to get reasonably organized before taking on the inter-connecting of computers and giving the COINS pot one more good stir which could readily develop into another 2 or 3 year delay.

5. Recommendation 12 pertains to National level coordination of the R&D for imagery interpretation equipment. I chaired that Panel and we found that this was not a very large effort -- only a few people were engaged in it and it was very well coordinated indeed. A few extra clearances in DOD would do it very nicely. I believe, however, that in its final form the JIIRG proposes a COMEX sub-committee to take on this coordination job. In any event, recommendation 12 as now stated simply asks COMEX to examine and make recommendations. To keep NPIC, ORD and others from being needlessly strapped, I recommend that any R&D sub-committee formation by COMEX be resisted.

6. It is interesting to note that this Group which was comprised largely of imagery interpreters to look at the imagery interpretation problem have now obtained approval of recommendations which could potentially get them into the collection business, the processing business, the ADP business, the R&D business, and the facilities construction business -- maybe the group should get an award for getting the most spring out of a slender board.

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7. I have the original recommendations and the comments on these if you would like to review them,



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